

# Anglian Water WAT 06498 Poplar Farm, Grantham, Lincolnshire: Report on Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

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**For Anglian Water**  
February 2017

Prepared by K. Smart  
Report Number: 029/2017  
TPA Project Code: GPF16  
Accession Code: LCNCC : 2016.84  
Grid Reference: SK 9042 3696

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**Client Name:** Anglian Water  
**Client Ref No.** WAT 06498  
**Document Title:** Poplar Farm, Grantham, Lincolnshire: Report on Archaeological Monitoring and Recording  
**Document Type:** Draft Report  
**Issue/Version Number:** V1  
**Grid Reference:** NGR SK 9042 3696  
**Planning Reference:** N/A  
**TPA Site Code:** GPF16  
**Accession Number:** LCNCC : 2016.84  
**Report No.** 029/2017

<b>Issue Number</b>	V1.0
<b>Prepared by</b>	K. Smart
<b>Date</b>	22nd February 2017
<b>Checked by</b>	E. Taylor
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<b>Date</b>	24th February 2017
<b>Approved by</b>	Gareth Davies
<b>Signed</b>	
<b>Date</b>	24th February 2017
<b>Status</b>	Final Report

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## Non-Technical Summary

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- Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA) were commissioned by Anglian Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the insertion of a new water main at Poplar Farm, Grantham, Lincolnshire (WAT 06498). The work was undertaken during July 2016.
- The trench for the water main was 315m in length and 2m wide and was excavated to between 0.7 and 1.5m deep depending on the site topography.
- No features or deposits of any archaeological interest were revealed during the excavations. The existing water main was found and removed, and was discovered to have disturbed the natural substratum in this area.
- No evidence relating to the possible prehistoric cropmark enclosures further to the south were identified, suggesting that the settlement/agricultural activity may not have extended this far to the north.

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## 1 Introduction

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- 1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology were commissioned by Anglian Water to carry out a watching brief, consisting of archaeological monitoring and recording of ground works associated with the installation of a new water main at Poplar Farm, Grantham, Lincolnshire (WAT 06498).
- 1.2 The development, hereafter 'the site', was located on the north-western fringe of the town of Grantham, Lincolnshire, within an area of allotment/recreational land.
- 1.3 The archaeological monitoring was conducted as part of the requirement set out by the Lincolnshire County Council archaeological officer to observe and record the potential surviving archaeological deposits within the proposed development area.

## 2 Project Background

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- 2.1 It was proposed by Anglian Water to construct a new water main on land at Poplar Farm, Grantham, Lincolnshire. The site lies within the district of South Kesteven and is centred at Grid Reference SK 9042 3696.
- 2.2 An *Archaeological Brief for a Scheme of Monitoring and Recording* was issued by the Historic Environment Officer of Lincolnshire County Council for the work (Jennings 2016). This was followed by a Written Scheme of Investigation (Taylor 2016). The site work was undertaken between the 6<sup>th</sup> of July and the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2016.
- 2.3 The topography of the site is roughly flat. It is situated on the boundary between two bedrocks: the Charmouth Mustone Formation with superficial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel head, and the Charmouth Mustone Formation with superficial deposits of Belton sand and gravel (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?>).

## 3 Archaeological and Historical Background

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- 3.1 The scheme is within an area of archaeological interest. Grantham is thought to have Saxon origins and by the time of the Domesday book in 1086 the town had a population of approximately 1000 people. It is situated along the Great North Road which runs from London to York and on to Edinburgh, and it prospered during the later medieval and post-medieval periods both as a stop-off along this road and as a centre for the wool trade.
- 3.2 There are various sites of prehistoric and medieval interest within the locality. These have been evidenced by the identification of crop marks as well as find spots. Within a field immediately to the south of the proposed development site an undated enclosure has been identified from crop marks (HER 30530). Approximately 200m to the north west of this a second undated enclosure has also been identified by crop marks (HER 36673), and further crop marks have been observed approximately 600m to the south in the form of a third undated enclosure (HER 36413). Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age inhumation burials are known at Little Gonerby, approximately 400m to the south east (HER 30525). The nearest findspot is a Bronze Age flint dagger recorded approximately 300m west of the development (HER 30533), and numerous prehistoric flint scatters have been noted in the vicinity (<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

## 4 Methodology

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- 4.1 The work was undertaken by suitably qualified members of TPA staff according to accepted archaeological practice and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014b) and *Code of Conduct* (2014a). The work followed the guidelines set out in the aforementioned *Archaeological Brief for a Scheme of Monitoring and Recording* (Jennings 2016) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (Taylor 2016).
- 4.2 The project was managed by Ed Taylor. The attending archaeologists were Tom Linington and Peter Watkin.
- 4.3 An area c.631m<sup>2</sup> was stripped after consultation with Louise Jennings of Lincolnshire County Council (Fig. 2). All trench locations were scanned by the contractors with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) prior to excavation.
- 4.4 Groundworks were undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Excavation was carried out under continuous archaeological supervision and extended to the first archaeological horizon or, if no archaeological features or deposits were present, to the maximum excavation depth necessary for the development.
- 4.5 The location of any artefacts recovered from the subsoil or features was recorded three dimensionally or by context as appropriate.
- 4.6 All excavations were recorded at an appropriate scale by GPS survey, measured drawing and photography. The features and deposits investigated by hand excavation were recorded on individual context recording sheets. Sections of excavated features were also drawn (at scale of 1:20). Spot heights were recorded relative to an Ordinance Datum.
- 4.7 Where practical and safe to do so, all spoil heaps were regularly examined for archaeological material. This included the use of a metal-detector.

## 5 Results

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- 5.1 A trench 315m in length with connection pits at either end was excavated over five days within a 12 day period. The trench was 2m to 2.25m wide and was excavated to a depth of between 0.7m and 1.5m depending on the existing topography.
- 5.2 The site was sealed by a deposit of topsoil (0100), which averaged 0.42m deep and consisted of dark greyish brown clayey silt containing frequent inclusions of small rounded stones and occasional fragments of redundant field drain.
- 5.3 The topsoil directly overlaid the subsoil (0101), a deposit of mid orangey brown clayey sand ranging between 0.4m and 0.96m deep.
- 5.4 The natural substratum was encountered at a depth of between 0.8m and 1.24m and consisted of mid orangey brown clayey sand with darker greyish mottles.
- 5.5 A defunct water main was discovered in the area of the western connection pit at a depth of approximately 0.4m. It consisted of a modern pipe within linear cut [0103], backfilled with (0103), a mixture of redeposited natural clay and subsoil. The entire width of [0103] was not ascertained as it extended below the trench section.
- 5.6 No archaeological finds, features or buried land surfaces were discovered within the trench.

## 6 Discussion and Conclusion

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- 6.1 The watching brief encountered no finds, features or buried land surfaces within the excavated trench. It is unlikely that the excavations stopped before the archaeological horizon was encountered as the natural substratum was identified in the base of the trench.
- 6.2 While enclosures and associated features have been identified from crop marks within the immediate vicinity south of the proposed development site it does not appear that the settlement/agricultural activity extended this far to the north.

## 7 Bibliography

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- British Geological Survey 2012. *Geology of Britain Viewer*. Available at: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?> [Accessed 23rd February 2017]
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014a. *Code of Conduct*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; Reading.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014b. *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; Reading.
- Jennings, L. 2016. *Archaeological Brief for Scheme of Monitoring and Recording: Poplar Farm Grantham*. Lincolnshire County Council unpublished report.
- Taylor, E. 2016. *Anglian Water WAT 06498: Poplar Farm, Grantham, Lincolnshire. Project Specification and Written Scheme of Investigation for a Scheme of Monitoring and Recording*. Trent & Peak Archaeology unpublished report.



## Appendix 1: Plates



Plate 1: The site strip underway, looking south-east



Plate 2: The area of the western connection pit after topsoil stripping.



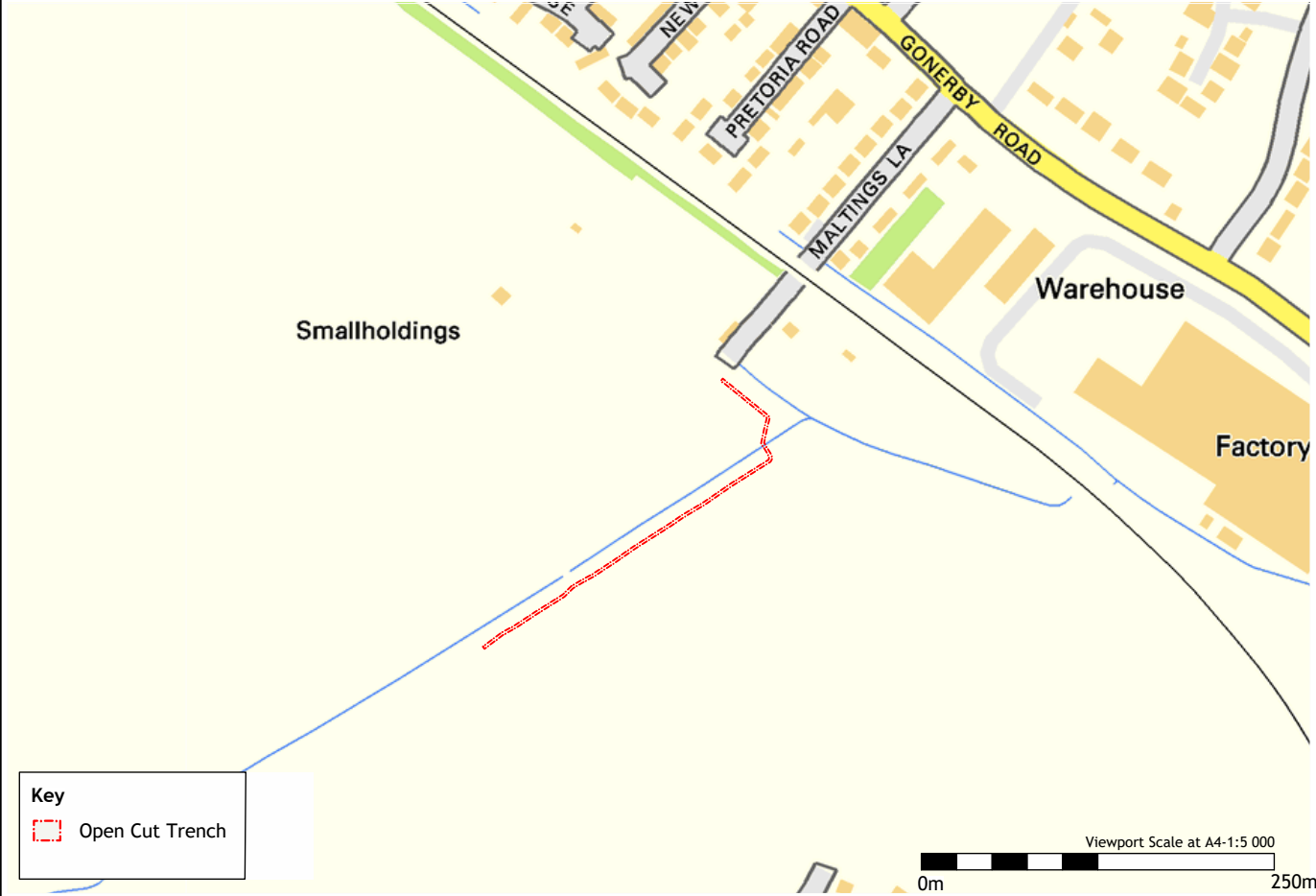
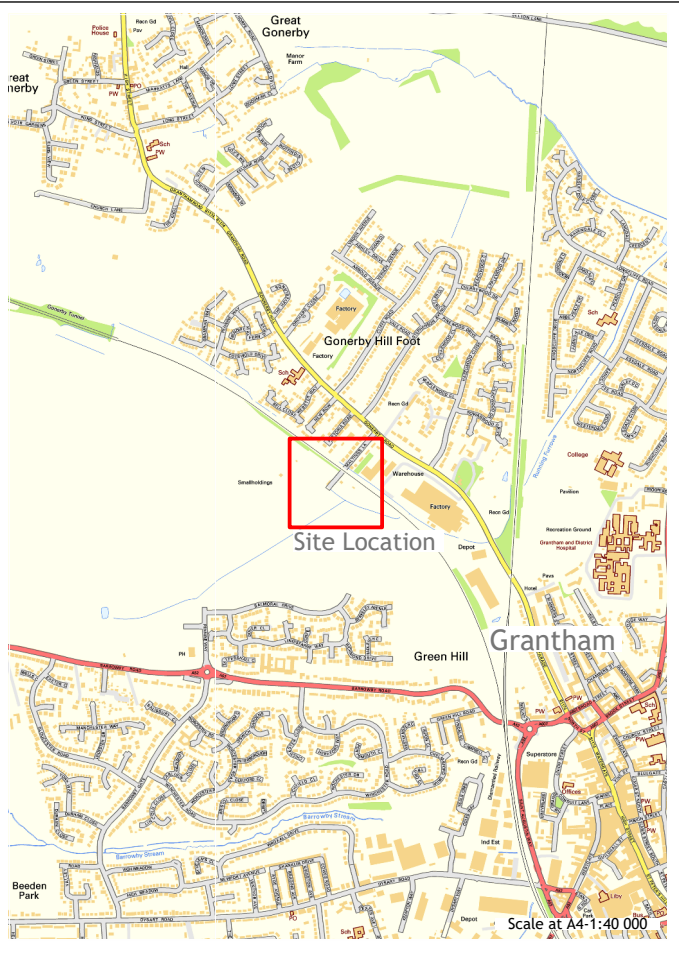
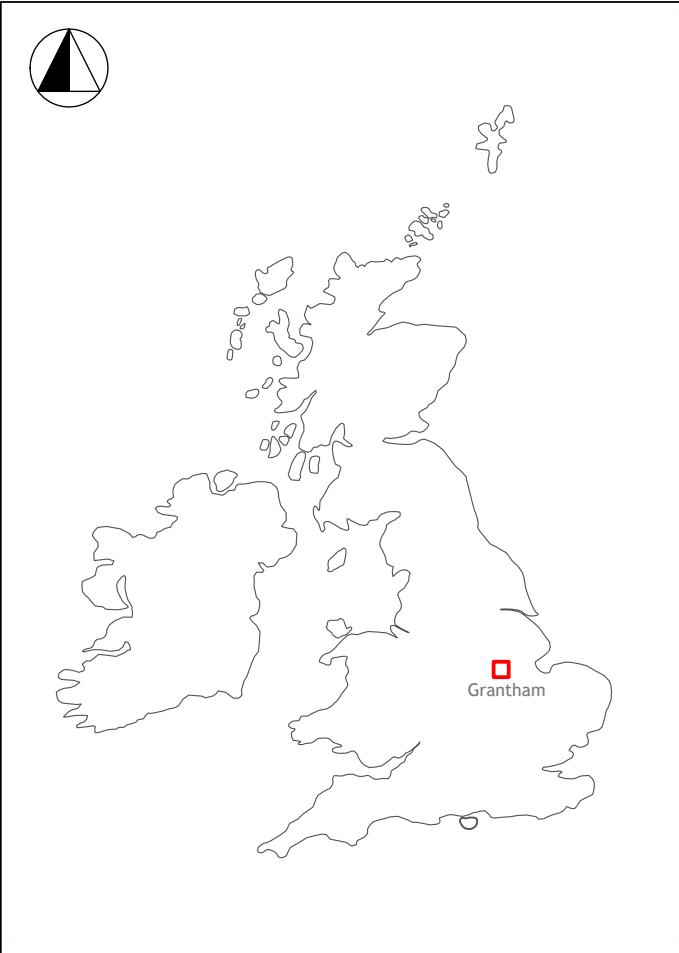
Plate 3: The north-eastern portion of the trench during excavation, looking north-west.

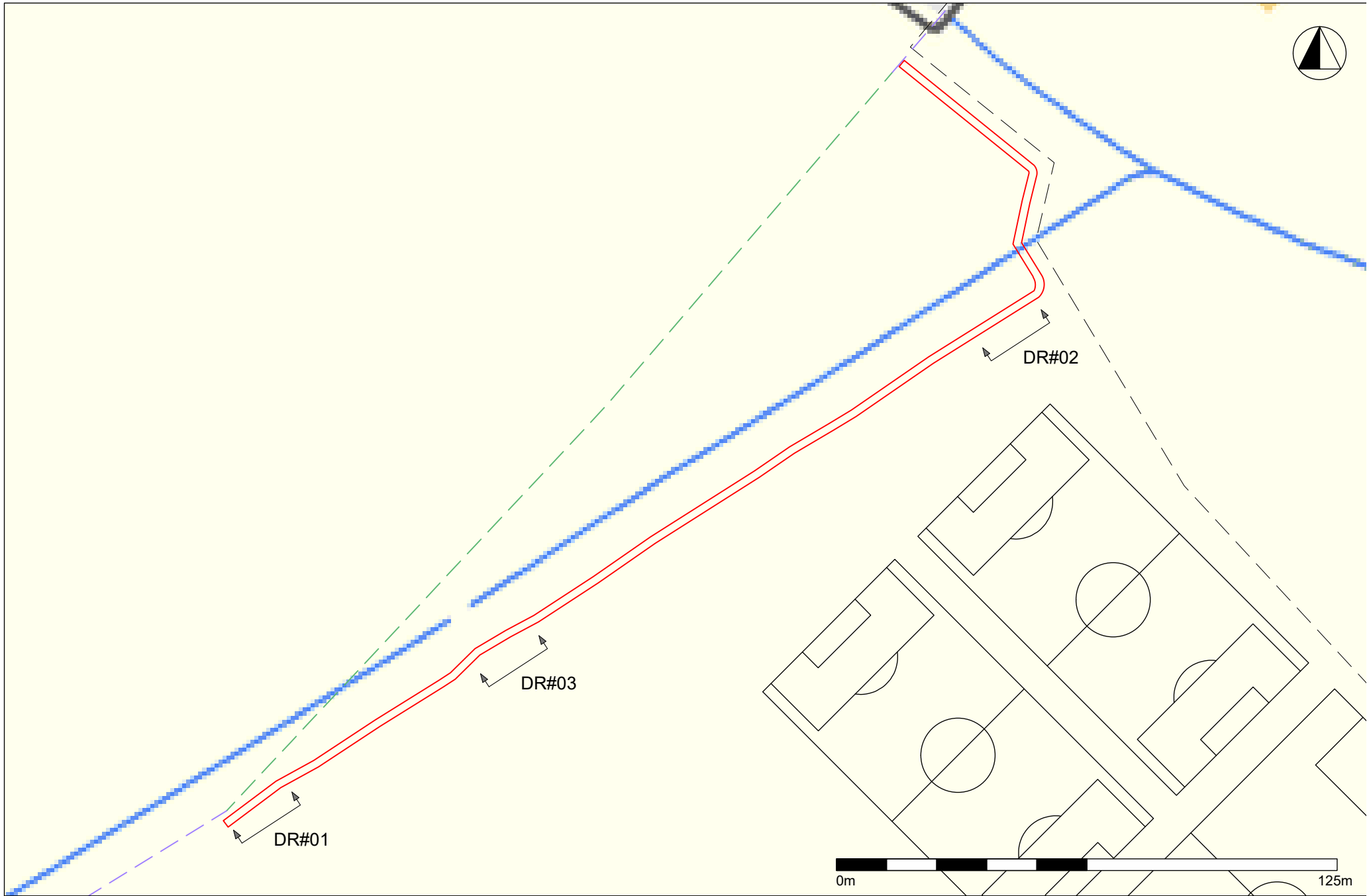


Plate 4: Representative section of the trench showing topsoil, subsoil and natural substratum

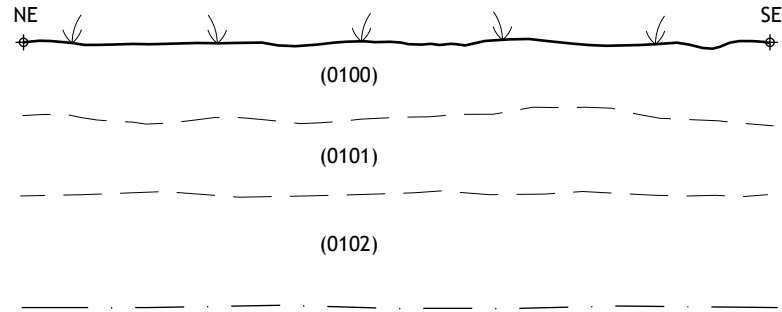
## Appendix 2: Figures

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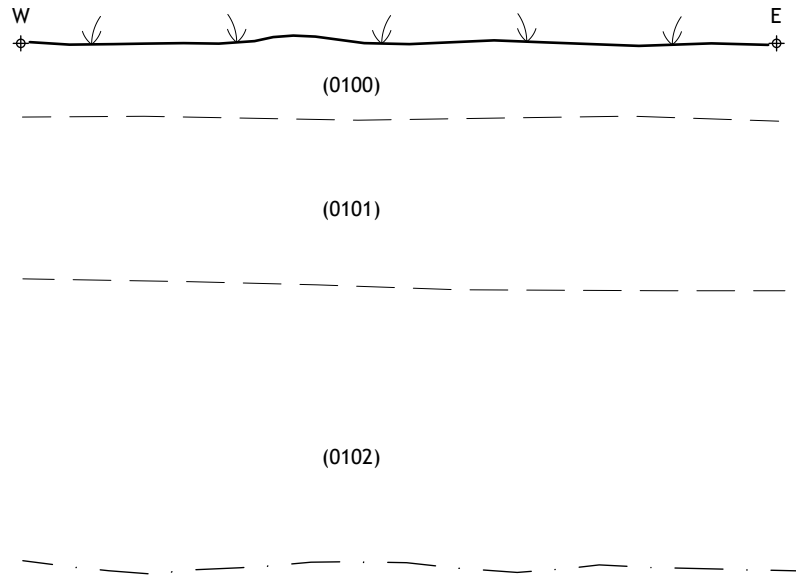




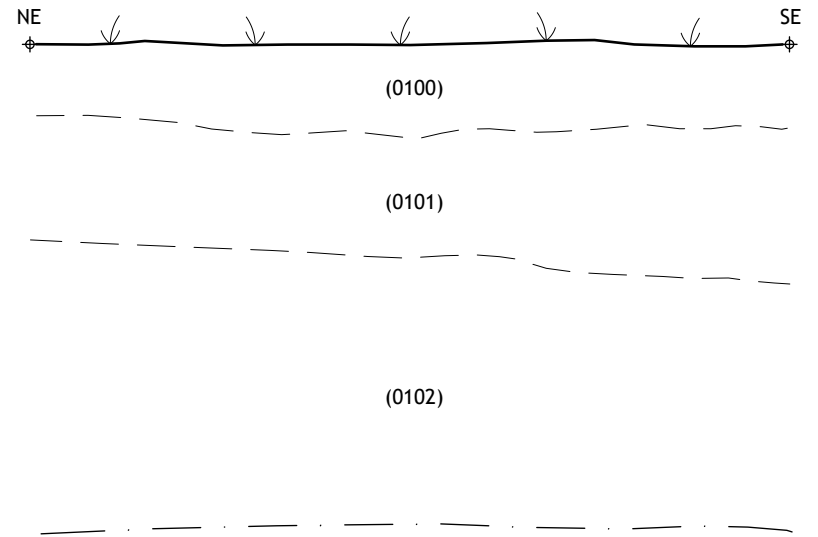
DR#01  
North West Facing Section of Western Connection Pit



DR#02  
North Facing Section of Pipe Cut



DR#03  
South West Facing Section of Pipe Cut



## Appendix 3: OASIS Form

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# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: trentpea1-277360**

### Project details

Project name	Poplar Farm, Grantham
Short description of the project	Trent and Peak Archaeology (TPA) were commissioned by Anglian Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the insertion of a new water main at Poplar Farm, Grantham, Lincolnshire. The work was undertaken during July 2016. The trench for the water main was 315m in length and 2m wide and was excavated to between 0.7 and 1.5m deep depending on the site topography. No features or deposits of any archaeological interest were revealed during the excavations. The existing water main was found and removed, and was discovered to have disturbed the natural substratum in this area. No evidence relating to the possible prehistoric cropmark enclosures further to the south were identified, indicating that the settlement/agricultural activity did not extend this far to the north.
Project dates	Start: 06-07-2016 End: 19-07-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	GPF16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	029/2017 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	WAT 06498 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC:2016.84 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	PIPELINE Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

### Project location



Country England  
 Site location LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH KESTEVEN GRANTHAM Poplar Farm  
 Study area 631 Square metres  
 Site coordinates SK 9042 3696 52.922111697254 -0.654922877793 52 55 19 N 000 39 17 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Trent and Peak Archaeology  
 Project brief originator Lincolnshire County Council  
 Project design originator Edmund Taylor  
 Project director/manager Edmund Taylor  
 Project supervisor Tom Linnington  
 Project supervisor Pete Watkin  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Anglian Water

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
 Digital Archive recipient The Collection: Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire, Lincoln  
 Digital Archive ID LCNCC: 2016.84  
 Digital Contents "none"  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient The Collection: Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire, Lincoln  
 Paper Archive ID LCNCC: 2016.84  
 Paper Contents "none"  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Poplar Farm, Grantham, Lincolnshire: Report on Archaeological Monitoring and Recording  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Smart, K.  
 Other bibliographic details 029/2017  
 Date 2017  
 Issuer or publisher Trent and Peak Archaeology  
 Place of issue or Nottingham

publication

Entered by Kate Smart (ksmart@yorkat.co.uk)

Entered on 24 February 2017

## OASIS:

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